

of the Geckos. Its habits are singular. It lives on the dry sand of the beach, at some distance from the vegetation, and the colour of the body much resembles that of the sand. When frightened it depresses its body, stretches out its legs, and closing its eyes tries to escape detection. If pursued it buries itself with great quickness in the sand; but as its legs are short, it cannot run very swiftly."

PROCTOTRETUS PECTINATUS.

PLATE IX.—FIG. 2.

Capite squamis subæqualibus, rhomboideis, imbricatis, carinatis tecto.

Proctotretus pectinatus, Bibr. Hist. Rept. IV. p. 292.

Habitat, Patagonia.

DESCRIPTION.—The scales of the head are narrow, closely imbricated, strongly but not acutely carinated, and the anterior ones arranged in somewhat of a radiating direction from the muzzle. There is but a single series of scales between those of the upper lip and the orbit, and these, together with all the scales about the head, partake of the carinated and elongated character already described. A single strong triangular scale and two smaller ones are placed on the anterior margin of the ear, which is narrow, oval and reniform. The scales of the temples and sides of the neck are rhomboidal, acute, carinated and imbricated. There is a longitudinal fold on each side of the neck and a transverse one anterior to the shoulder, behind which is a deep depression. The scales of the back and side are prominently and acutely carinated, those of the central line being rather more prominent than the others; and above this there is on each side a marked longitudinal lateral crest extending from beneath the eyes to the base of the tail. The scales constituting these crests are very prominent, narrow and acutely carinated. The scales of the belly are also imbricated and rhomboidal, but flat; those of the under surface of the hands and feet are carinated; and those of the toes have three carinæ. The body is somewhat depressed as is the tail at its commencement, becoming more rounded and rather abruptly smaller at some distance from its origin. The fore-foot reaches to about two-thirds of the distance from the shoulder to the side, and the hinder extremity thus placed extends to the shoulder.

The colours of this most elegant of all the species of the genus are very beautiful. "This is the most beautiful lizard," says Mr. Darwin, "I have ever seen; the back has three rows of regular oblong marks of a rich brown, the other scales symmetrically coloured either ash or light brown; many of them of a bright emerald green; beneath pearly, with semilunar spots of brilliant orange on the throat." I find in the specimens I have examined that the pectinated lateral crests are white, and the brown oblong marks of the back are bordered with a similar colour. There are always three white transverse lines across the head.

DIMENSIONS.

| | Inches. | Lines. |
|------------------------------------|---------|--------|
| Length of the head | 0 | 7 |
| of the body | 1 | 7 |
| of the tail | 3 | 1 |
| Total length..... | 5 | 5 |
| Length of anterior extremity | 1 | 0 |
| of posterior extremity | 1 | 5 |

This species, as has been observed by M. Bibron, who first described it, may be at once distinguished from every other by the character of the scales of the head, which, instead of lying flat, with the edges in contact, are all of them imbricated and carinated. Another obvious distinguishing character, is the narrow line of prominent scales running the whole length of the body on each side, forming a sort of *pectinated* lateral crest, from which circumstance it has derived its name.

Found by Mr. Darwin, at Bahia Blanca, and Port Desire in Patagonia.

GENUS—DIPLOLEMUS. *Bell.*

Caput breve, latum, subtriangulare. Aures parvæ, ovatæ, margine lævi. Nares magnæ, rotundæ. Collum infra transversè, ad latera longitudinalitèr plicatum. Corpus subdepressum, non cristatum. Cauda teres, breviuscula, lævis. Pedes breves, robusti. Squamæ capitis numerosæ, parvæ, rotundatæ, non imbricatæ—corporis atque caudæ suprâ minimæ, læves, convexæ, paulò imbricatæ, infra læves, planæ. Pori femorales et præ-anales in utroque sexu nulli. Dentes palatini nulli.

The new genus which I have thus defined, resembles very closely, in most of its characters, the genus *Leiosaurus* of Bibron; from which, indeed, it scarcely differs, excepting in the absence of palatine teeth, and in the form of the suborbital plates, which in *Leiosaurus* are all distinct, and of nearly equal size; whereas, in the present genus, three of these are united to form one plate, resembling that in *Proctotretus*, and some other *Agamidæ*. In other respects the genera are very closely allied; but the existence or non-existence of palatine teeth, is a character of so much importance, that it appeared to me,—and in this opinion I am supported by M. Bibron, who examined the specimens with me,—that they should be considered as distinct. Both the genera are natives of South America. Of *Leiosaurus Bellii* (Bibr.) the only known specimens were presented to me by Capt. King, who obtained them during his survey, from whom also I obtained specimens of one of the species of the present genus, *D. Bibronii*.